

F1

(phenyl isocyanate).

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5. (twice amended) The polyurethane according to claim 4, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivatives used to prepare the said sulphated hyaluronic acid A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are selected from the group consisting of :

- the partial esters of hyaluronic acid containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic function esterified with alcohols of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, or heterocyclic series, and
  - the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic functions are esterified with the alcoholic function of the same hyaluronic acid molecule or of a different hyaluronic acid molecule,
  - the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function reacted with an aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic or heterocyclic polyalcohol, and wherein crosslinking is thereafter generated by means of spacer chains.
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F2

20. (amended) A compound which consists of a polyurethane bound covalently to sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative obtained by a process comprising supplementing a polyurethane solution with a salt of the said sulphated hyaluronic acid or of sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative, or with a solution thereof.

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21. (amended) The polyurethane according to claim 20, wherein the said polyurethane is formed starting from 4,4'-methylenebis (phenyl isocyanate).

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F4

24. (amended) The polyurethane according to claim 23, wherein the hyaluronic acid derivatives used to prepare the said sulphated hyaluronic acid derivatives A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> are selected from the group

consisting of:

- F4
- the partial esters of hyaluronic acid containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic function esterified with alcohols of the aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocyclic series, and
  - the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function and the remaining carboxylic functions are esterified with the alcoholic function of the same hyaluronic acid molecule or of a different hyaluronic acid molecule,
  - the partial crosslinked esters containing at least one free carboxylic function reacted with an aliphatic, aromatic, arylaliphatic, cycloaliphatic or heterocyclic polyalcohol, and wherein crosslinking is thereafter generated by means of spacer chains.
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Kindly add the following claims:

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F5

36. (new) The industrial or medical articles or devices according to claim 35, wherein said articles or devices are selected from the group consisting of catheters, guide channels, probes, cardiac valves, soft tissue prostheses, prostheses of animal origin, cardiac valves from pigs, artificial tendons, bone replacements or cardiovascular prostheses, contact lenses, blood oxygenators, artificial kidneys, hearts, pancreas and livers, blood bags, syringes, surgical instruments, filtration systems, laboratory instruments, containers for cultures and for cell and tissue regeneration, supports for peptides, proteins and antibodies.

37. (new) The polyurethane according to claim 1, wherein the said polyurethane has an average molecular weight of 180,000 Da.

38. (new) The polyurethane according to claim 20, wherein the said polyurethane has an average molecular weight of 180,000 Da.

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